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5. To what extent do the concepts that we use shape the conclusions that we reach?

**1) The command term:** **To what extent**

* This means to indicate the degree to which something exists, happens, or is true. If you say that something is true to an extent, to some extent, or to a certain extent, you mean that it is partly but not completely true.

**2) Keyword and phrases:**

Each keyword and phrases have different meanings and it will determine how we answer the essay question.

* Concepts
  + An abstraction of generalization from experience
  + A plan of intention
  + An idea or invention to help sell or publicize a commodity
* Shape
  + Develop in a particular way or determine the nature of
  + Determine the nature of; have a great influence on
  + Make something fit in the form of something else
  + Form or produce
* Conclusions
  + The end or finish of an event or process
  + A judgment or decision reached by reasoning
* Reach
  + Arrive our understanding at
  + The extent or range of something’s application, effect or influence.

**3) Areas Of Knowledge**

* Natural and Human Sciences
  + Natural Science includes Biology, Chemistry, Physics
  + Human science includes economics, psychology, business and many more.
    - Observation of the world, and the study and analysis of human reactions towards desires, expectations and preferences.
* Ethics
  + Discuss the moral values of one
  + Knowledge question: How does one person’s cultural and social background affect their perspective?

**4) Ways of knowing**

* Language
  + Affects our understanding
  + Without concepts, language would be shallow or even meaningless so they are crucial
* Emotion
  + Argue that different emotion shape different conclusions
  + The James-Lange theory of emotion
    - Our nervous system reacts to external situations and stimuli by creating a physical event such as an increase in the rate of the heart beat, blood rising to the surface of the skin
    - Our brains sense these reactions and our emotional response is produced as a result, fear, embarrassment, stress, etc
    - Someone’s reaction towards a bear results in running as they experience fear.
  + The Cannon-Bard theory of emotion
    - Instead of emotion being caused by the physical reaction, emotion was caused by the physical reaction
    - Seeing a bear, there is fear, fear causes us to run.
  + Sense perception
    - The way in which we receive knowledge from outside the world and by this way, we are able to arrive to our conclusions based on what we have seen, lived and experienced.

**5) Knowledge issue**

You can employ the concept that the world can be reliably tested and reach conclusions about how the world works. Therefore, we arrive at conclusions by way of concepts – To conclude means that you have arrived at an extension of your conceptual framework – the system of beliefs that make up your framework.

Real life situations

* Unequal Income distribution shapes our understanding of society
  + http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/economic-inequality-it-s-far-worse-than-you-think/
  + The top of 20% of US households own more than 84% of the wealth, and the bottom 40% combine for a paltry 0.3%.
  + There are different perceptions on inequality and although everyone acknowledge that the gap between the rich and poor has widened over the last decade, very few see it as a serious issue. “Just 5% of Americans think that inequality is a major problem in need of attention.”
  + This also depends on the person’s background. They may come from a family in need of public assistance where to them; the distribution of income is very unequal. In contrast, a person comes from a wealthy family. To them, their view on distribution of income has no significant impact. This logical reasoning shapes our conclusions we reach.
* Ancient times, people concluded that the shape of Earth is a sphere
  + People observed that when they saw that they starting from a point going to any direction they ultimately reach the same point.
* Leading to questions
  + Is there a way to find conclusions to knowledge?
  + Are the conclusions we reach influenced by our environment/culture?
  + Does language change how we shape concepts?

**6) Assumption**

* The concepts exist and are true to some extent
* However we must be aware that human beings are limited in knowledge
* The concepts (ways of knowing) we use today, proved by experiments may be true until it is proven wrong. Therefore, it does not only appeal to an individual but to humanity.